

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. The Federal Communications Commission of late has shown a lack of courage in carrying out their Congressionally appointed mission to govern. While the Commission may wish to sit on their laurels and preside only over the technical aspects of the airwaves and digital spectrum, the Commission is still designated with the authority to license (and de-license) those entities, both public and private, which may have access to this otherwise Public Trust. Any Commissioner who does not have the courage to face up to this task should resign his/her post. Use your authority to make clear to those entities who are currently licensed to utilize the Public Trust that specific codes of conduct, including the various practices of charging their customers for usage on this Public Trust, falls within the domain of your authority. Anything less than that is sheer cowardice.

Steven Gillam  
Chicago, Illinois  
former SBC user.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.